

October 11, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
233 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2421 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader Pelosi,

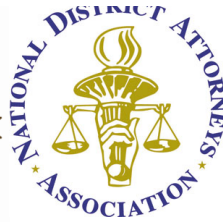
On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the largest prosecutor organization representing 2500 elected and appointed District Attorneys and 40,000 assistant district attorneys, the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), representing the largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies in the Nation, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the world's largest organization of law enforcement executives, we are writing in regards to two legislative priorities of our associations that should be considered during the lame duck session of Congress.

It is our strongly held view that these priority bills should go to the floor alone and not as part of a larger package of bills. These bills have received widespread bipartisan support and we ask you to move them without further delay.

The first priority is passage of the **Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016**, legislation that contains important provisions related to crime victims' rights, rape kit backlog reduction, improvements in forensic science and post-conviction DNA testing. Each day, prosecutors and law enforcement seek truth and justice for the communities they serve. The bill not only helps investigate and prosecute the guilty, but also helps protect the innocent.

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants within the bill support crime laboratories not only by providing funding for DNA analysis, but also for other forensic disciplines such as latent prints, digital evidence and toxicology, while making accreditation mandatory. Another important component of the legislation is the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Program, which provides funding for DNA analysis to ensure the innocent have not been wrongly accused. Finally, the legislation supports and strengthens the protection of crime victims through the authorization of grants and restitution, including funding for the reduction of rape kit backlogs that exist in some crime labs.

Second, it is vitally important that the criminal justice system stays current in the use of technology and science by law enforcement to apprehend and prosecute criminals, while also protecting the innocent. The **Rapid DNA Act of 2015** does just that, and has been passed under unanimous consent by the Senate, the same language substituted and subsequently passed on a voice vote out of the House Judiciary Committee, and is now pending action on the House floor.



The introduced legislation allows the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to issue standards and procedures for the use of Rapid DNA instruments. In addition, the bill authorizes criminal justice agencies to use the Rapid DNA instrument at the booking station for CODIS enrollment, while complying with the standards and procedures issued by the FBI Director. Use of the Rapid DNA instrument at booking may allow law enforcement to either include or exclude an arrestee as a potential suspect within two hours. This will not only aid in the timely prosecution of perpetrators, but also help to exclude innocent individuals.

In the current political environment of complex and sometimes divisive issues, it is important to consider legislation that garners bipartisan and bicameral support, while also making meaningful reforms in the criminal justice system. These forensics related bills help our members do their jobs more effectively and efficiently in the field and their passage is a good step in improving the overall criminal justice system, something our members strive for as they protect the communities they serve. We look forward to working with each of you and your staff to make passage of these bills a reality.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of J. Thomas Manger.

J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police
Montgomery County Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

A blue ink signature of Michael A. Ramos.

Michael Ramos
District Attorney
San Bernardino, California
President, National District Attorneys Association

A black ink signature of Terrence M. Cunningham.

Terrence M. Cunningham
President
International Association of Chiefs of Police